

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 PANAMA 01669 242057Z

65-62  
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSC-05

PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAB-01 /061 W  
----- 078428

O R 242008Z MAR 75  
FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3369  
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA  
AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE  
USUN 475

UNCLAS PANAMA 1669

EO 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PFOR  
SUBJ: PRESIDENT MEETING IN PANAMA--HIGHLIGHTS OF TORRIJOS PRESS  
CONFERENCE MARCH 23

REF: PANAMA 1656

1. CHIEF OF GOVERNMENT GENERAL OMAR TORRIJOS AND PRESIDENTS  
PEREZ, LOPEZ AND OBUDER INTERRUPTED DAY-LONG WORKING SESSION  
MARCH 23 ON CONTADORA ISLAND FOR TORRIJOS PRESS CONFERENCE  
WITH LOCAL AND VISITING NEWSMEN. HIGHLIGHTS OF TORRIJOS'  
REMARKS--FULL TEXT OF PRESS CONFERENCE CARRIED BY FBIS--FOLLOWS.

2. CANAL TREATY NEGOTIATIONS - ASKED WHAT ACHIEVEMENTS HAVE  
BEEN MADE IN NEGOTIATIONS TO DATE, TORRIJOS REPLIED MOST  
SIGNIFICANT WAS "TO HAVE MADE A NATIONAL RELIGION INTO A  
RELIGION FOR AMERICA" AND NOTED THAT GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT WAS  
TO HAVE "THREE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT AMERICAN LEADERS" IN  
PANAMA DISCUSSING THE PROBLEM. ASKED IF PANAMA WAS ATTEMPTING  
TO NEGOTIATE A TREATY PROVIDING FOR A NEUTRAL  
CANAL, WITHOUT U.S. DEFENSE, TORRIJOS REPLIED "THAT IS  
EXACTLY WHAT WE ARE DISCUSSING." CALLED ON TO SAY WHETHER  
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 PANAMA 01669 242057Z

GOP WOULD NATIONALIZE CANAL IF U.S. SENATE REJECTED A NEW

TREATY, TORRIJOS REMARKED THAT "IF YOU ARE GOING TO HIT SOMEONE, YOU SHOULD NOT ANNOUNCE IT." OBSERVING THAT HE WOULD ALSO NOT COMMENT BECAUSE "THEY NO LONGER PAY ATTENTION TO WHAT I SAY," THE GENERAL REMINDED REPORTERS OF ASST. SECRETARY ROGERS' WARNING THAT NON-APPROVAL OF A NEW TREATY COULD RESULT IN PARALYSIS OF THE CANAL.

3. URRUTIA-THOMSON TREATY - QUERIED ABOUT THE URRUTIA-THOMSON TREATY ISSUE, TORRIJOS STATED QUESTION WOULD BE "COMPLETELY ANSWERED" BY JOINT DECLARATION. HE WISHED TO LEAVE NO UNSOLVED PROBLEMS FOR FUTURE PANAMANIAN GENERATIONS.

4. CANAL TOLLS - IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION WHETHER PANAMA WOULD RAISE CANAL TOLLS, TORRIJOS STATED PANAMA WOULD FIRST "CONSULT" WITH THE WATERWAY'S USERS. BLAMING "ILL-MEANING U.S. INTERESTS" FOR PREDICTING PANAMA WOULD RAISE TOLLS, TORRIJOS OBSERVED GOP MUST CONSULT BECAUSE OF IMPACT ON ECONOMICS AND BECAUSE PANAMA'S STRUGGLE "WILL SUCCEED ONLY TO THE EXTENT THAT PEOPLE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD GIVE IT THEIR SUPPORT."

5. CIA ACTIVITIES - WHEN ASKED IF GOP HAD ANY PROOF OF CIA MEDDLING IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF PANAMA, THE GENERAL NOTED THAT INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES DO NOT LEAVE MARKS, "ON CERTAIN OCCASIONS ONE CAN SENSE THAT THEY HAVE BEEN AROUND BUT...IT IS VERY DIFFICULT TO DETERMINE WHAT THEY ARE DOING OR PLAN TO DO." WITH REGARD TO "JOINT MEASURES" LATIN GOVERNMENTS MIGHT TAKE TO PREVENT BIG POWER INTERVENTION, TORRIJOS SAID ONE MEANS WAS PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE PROBLEM, "ONE FORM OF DEFENSE IS THIS NEWS CONFERENCE," THE OTHER IS THROUGH A READING OF HISTORY. REPLYING LATER TO A SIMILAR QUESTION, TORRIJOS OBSERVED HE HAD SPENT MUCH TIME "READING BIOGRAPHIES OF CESAR AUGUSTO SANDINO AND HO CHI MINH."

6. COMMENTS BY PANAMANIAN UN AMBASSADOR - INTERVIEWED SEPARATELY, PANAMA'S AMBASSADOR TO UN AQUILINO BOYD, ADDRESSING THE CURRENT CANAL TREATY NEGOTIATIONS, STRESSED THAT TALKS ARE IN MOST IMPORTANT PHASE. INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT FOR PANAMA, ACCORDING TO BOYD, IS "INDISPENSABLE"

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 PANAMA 01669 242057Z

AT THIS CRITICAL POINT AND, FOR THAT REASON, GOP IS SEEKING BACKING IN UN, OAS AND OTHER FORUMS. IN THIS CONNECTION, BOYD OBSERVED THAT GOP'S CAMPAIGN FOR UN SECURITY COUNCIL POSITION WAS RESPONSE TO RESOLUTION OF 37 SENATORS. BOYD NOTED ASST. SECRETARY ROGERS' OBSERVATION THAT, WHEN DRAFT TREATY IS PRESENTED, SEVERAL SENATORS NOW OPPOSED WOULD CHANGE THEIR VIEWS. WITH REGARD TO OPINION IN US, THE AMBASSADOR ALSO REPORTEDLY STATED PANAMANIANS HAVE BEEN

ATTEMPTING TO CONVINCE U.S. OFFICIALS THAT IT IS THEIR  
RESPONSIBILITY TO EDUCATE U.S. OPINION ON THE CANAL  
PROBLEM. PRESIDENT FORD, SAID BOYD, SHOULD MENTION THE  
CANAL PROBLEM IN HIS PRESS CONFERENCES. BOYD SAID HE  
WAS OPTIMISTIC ABOUT SENATE APPROVAL OF NEW TREATY BECAUSE  
THE U.S. WISHES TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH LATIN AMERICA.  
JORDEN

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TEXT, CHIEFS OF STATE MEETINGS, PRESS CONFERENCES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 24 MAR 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975PANAMA01669  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750102-0900  
**From:** PANAMA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750322/aaaaatmt.tel  
**Line Count:** 122  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 PANAMA 1656  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** hartledg  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 18 JUN 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <18 JUN 2003 by SilvaL0>; APPROVED <26 FEB 2004 by hartledg>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PRESIDENT MEETING IN PANAMA--HIGHLIGHTS OF TORRIJOS PRESS CONFERENCE MARCH 23  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PN, (TORRIJOS, OMAR), (LOPEZ MICHELSSEN, ALFONSO), (ODUBER QUIROS, DANIEL)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006